

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITIZENS SERVICES BUILDING

401 Sagner Ave.

Frederick, MD 21701

Minutes of the July 9, 2020 Meeting

- I. The meeting was held online, and called to order by Chair Mari Lee. An invitation was extended to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Lisa Clark, Annette Breiling, Francisco Alves, Roger Sobkowiak, Chris Isleib, Cindy Shubin, Lee Whisner, Veronica Lowe, Paula Glascoe, Irene Packer-Halsey, and Greg Sember. Dana Falls, FCPS liaison; Council Member Jessica Fitzwater, County Council Liaison; and Capt. Pat Grossman, FPD liaison, were present.
- III. Irene Packer-Halsey asked why HRC members had not been able to discuss as a group the public statements the HRC had recently issued. Mari Lee explained that the Maryland Opens Meetings Act applies in those cases, and that the Frederick County Attorney's Office had provided advice on how the HRC could achieve consensus on the content of those statements while complying with the law.

Upon motion, the minutes of the March 2020 HRC meeting were approved.

- IV. Captain Pat Grossman said that he hoped the Frederick Police Department and HRC members could continue the positive dialogue that has developed in the past, and gave out his cell phone number so members could reach him. Captain Grossman is now the acting Chief, and the Mayor's office is leading efforts to recruit and hire a new permanent chief.

Captain Grossman said there have been fewer opioid deaths, and fewer calls for service, than at this same point last year. A new police academy is scheduled to start in August.

Chair Mari Lee thanked Captain Grossman for always being involved with the HRC, and along with Lt. Hayer, regularly attending HRC meetings and being available and willing to answer questions.

- V. A slate of officers for the current year was presented for consideration, as follows:

Mari Lee	Chair
Lee Whisner	Vice Chair
Chris Isleib	Treasurer
Veronica Lowe	Parliamentarian
Greg Sember	Member at Large

Cindy Shubin moved to nominate this slate of members for election to the positions stated, and Roger Sobkowiak seconded that motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

VI. Officers' reports

GRC – Roger Sobkowiak reported that the GRC is working on matters to be brought forward for consideration by the HRC at a future meeting.

IRC – Cindy Shubin reported that the IRC is working on developing a strategic plan that will be presented by the end of the summer.

CRC – will be proposing community conversations on race, race relations and community policing in the coming months.

VII. Liaison reports

County Council Liaison Jessica Fitzwater said that she was working on race equity, and is looking at offering legislation. She said that Council Member Kai Hagan has looked at Montgomery County's race equity program and wants to start getting community feedback here. She will let him know that the HRC may be able to help him do this.

FCPS liaison Dana Falls reported on the efforts being made by the Board of Education to connect with students who have to stay at home due to COVID. There has been much student discussion on social media. Parents have been surveyed, and there is considerable concern for how minority students and English language learners can be reached and taught most effectively, since they have proven to be the hardest for FCPS to connect with, even with the purchase of over 1,000 Wi-Fi enabled hot spots. Dana Falls presented a number of statistics about the demographic breakdown of students, administrators and teachers in the FCPS system.

Veronica Lowe asked if all of the members of the FCPS Superintendent's cabinet are white, and are picked because they are likely to agree with what

FCPS wants to do. She asked why more people of color and more regular community members haven't been appointed to the FCPS committees. Dana Falls said that members are selected based on their expertise.

Annette Breiling asked Dana Falls why more comprehensive instruction is not being given to emphasize all of the contributions made by African Americans since 1619. Mr. Falls said that he would look into this.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned.

These minutes were prepared by the Human Relations Department.